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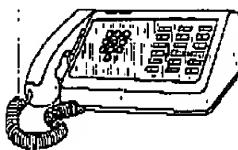
**DELIO & PETERSON, LLC****INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**ANTHONY P. DELIO  
PETER W. PETERSONROBERT CURCIO  
JOHN J. TOMASZEWSKI  
KELLY M. REYNOLDS  
\*NY BAR**PATENTS, TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS**

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PARAPROFESSIONALS

TODD W. PATTIST  
BRENDA A. SULLIVAN**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

<b>Our Ref.:</b>	<b>IBMB100270000</b>	<b>Your Ref.:</b>	<b>09/650,103</b>
<b>Fax No. Called:</b>	<b>703-872-9311</b>		
<b>Please Deliver To:</b>	<b>Ex. Zeinab El Arini U.S.P.T.O.</b>	<b>Art Unit Division</b>	<b>1746</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>John J. Tomaszewski</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>December 30, 2003</b>	<i>PLB</i>	

We are transmitting 20 pages (including this cover sheet)**MESSAGE:****LETTER AFTER FINAL REJECTION****IMPORTANT**

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IBM Docket No. BUR9-1999-0267-US1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## Amendment Response/Transmittal

In re application of: Francis A. Abramovich et al.

DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC  
121 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510-1241

Serial No. 09/650,103

Filed: August 29, 2000

For: METHOD FOR SURFACE PREPARATION OF WORKPIECES UTILIZING FLUID  
SEPARATION TECHNIQUESMail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Date: December 30, 2003

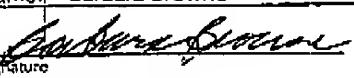
Transmitted herewith for filing is an Amendment/Response in the above-identified Application.

- No additional fee is required.  
 The fee has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
TOTAL 27 *	MINUS	30	- 0
INDEPENDENT 4 *	MINUS	5	- 0
<input type="checkbox"/> 1ST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			

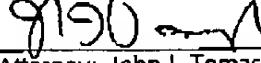
Other Than Small Entity	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
x \$ 18.00 =	\$ 0
x \$ 84.00 =	\$ 0
\$280.00	\$
TOTAL	
	\$ 0

- \* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3  
 \*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".  
 \*\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.
- Please charge the Assignee IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0456 in the amount of \$ 0. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0456. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16.
- Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents on the date shown below.	
Date:	December 30, 2003
Name:	Barbara Browne
Signature:	
Date:	12/30/03
ibmbj00270000amnd@fran	

BY:

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Attorney: John J. Tomaszewski  
 Registration No. 26,241  
 (203) 787-0595

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DOCKET: BUR9-1999-0267-US1

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR:	Francis A. Ambrovich et al.	)	EXAMINER:	Zeinab El Arini
SERIAL NO.:	09/650,103	)	ART UNIT:	1746
FILING DATE:	August 29, 2000	)	DATE:	December 30, 2003
FOR:	METHOD FOR SURFACE PREPARATION OF WORKPIECES UTILIZING FLUID SEPARATION TECHNIQUES	)		

**LETTER AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name: Barbara Browne Date: December 30, 2003

Signature: Barbara Browne

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Final Rejection Office Action mailed November 4, 2003, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.